

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

0100226427

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: Gillette Building				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: 70-72 Baltimore Street and 1-5 North Liberty Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Cumberland				
STATE Maryland		COUNTY: Allegany		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
				<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No				
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>formerly</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <u>vacant</u> <u>commercial</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific _____ & <u>residences</u>				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Cumberland Urban Renewal Agency				
STREET AND NUMBER: City Hall				
CITY OR TOWN: Cumberland		STATE: Maryland		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Allegany County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER: 30 Washington Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Cumberland		STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 463-666				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Gillette Building stands on the northeast corner of Baltimore and Liberty streets in the third block east of Wills Creek in Cumberland, Allegany County. The property is known as 70-72 Baltimore Street and 1-5 North Liberty Street.

The Gillette Building is a three and a half story, brick structure from the first half of the nineteenth century. The bricks are laid in Stretcher Bond. The building has a brick cornice and a low pitch roof which appears to be covered with slate shingles. On the upper levels there are three bays along the south side, five along the west side, and one set on a diagonal in the southwest corner. The street facades of the first floor have modern shop fronts and siding. The roof is pierced by three internal chimneys, one of which is on the east wall. The east wall extends above the roof line on both sides of the chimney and it appears that there may have been double chimneys on this wall at one time. The north wall running perpendicular to Liberty Street appears to have been altered sometime in the past. There is no evidence of a basement. There are two tie rods between the second and third floors, one each on Baltimore and Liberty Streets sides.

Each of the windows of the upper levels have brick flat arches above them, double-hung, wooden sashes, and wooden sills. The window frames are round on the external sides. The windows of the third floor - three on the south side, one on the diagonal, and only four on the west side - have six-over-six lights. There are shutter hooks on the exterior sides of these window frames. The windows of the second floor have one-over-one lights. The top sashes of the five windows on the west side of the second floor are larger than the bottom sashes as though they have nine-over-six lights. The second story windows on the south side and the diagonal have fairly equal size sashes on the top and bottom. The sashes, however, are narrower than those of above and on the west wall. The openings are narrowed by the installation of boards along the sides and the top of the sashes.

The interior of the first floor is divided into five shop areas: two along Baltimore Street and three along North Liberty Street. Four of these have modern interiors. 72 Baltimore Street (easterly side) has a World War I era "academic" interior. This space was occupied by the Curtis restaurant from about 1918 until May, 1974 when the business moved to a new location on North Liberty Street. What probably were the original wooden booths and marble counter were moved to the new location. The walls of this room are covered with dark paneling and mirrors. The booths lined the west wall, the center of the room, and the northerly section of the east wall. A large mirror flanked by two round columns with ornate capitals is mounted to the east

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Colonial ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) circa 1830-1850

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Gillette Building has architectural and historical significance to the City of Cumberland and Allegany County. Architecturally, the building represents an urban form of the classical style of the early to mid-nineteenth century. The simplicity of its design stands in contrast to the ornate features of the surrounding Victorian structures; however, the buildings have a uniformity in quality and scale that ties them together in visual harmony.

The Gillette Building is one of the earliest structures remaining on Baltimore Street in the area that comprises the main business district. Another building that may date from the same era as the Gillette Building stands on the southeast corner of Baltimore and Mechanic Streets. This building, however, has undergone vast changes and is encased with stucco and modern siding. The Gillette Building retains much of its original design and is the only early classical facade remaining in the area. Although the building is not shown, a circa 1861 photograph of Baltimore Street looking west toward Wills Creek indicated that the street was lined with structures similar in design to that of the Gillette Building in the pre-Civil War period.

Although the exact date of construction is unknown, it appears that the building was erected in the first half of the nineteenth century, probably between 1830 and 1850. This approximate date is based upon the stylistic and construction features of the structure. The narrow window frames, the east wall being extended above the roof line, and the interior decorative detailing of the upper levels are characteristic of the early to mid-nineteenth century architecture of Western Maryland.

Thomas in the History of Allegany County records that in April, 1833, a fire that began on Mechanic Street destroyed "Everything on Baltimore Street as far as Liberty" (p. 109). This report raises the possibility that the Gillette Building could have been standing at the time. In Chapter 5

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

AL-1-01

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland, Maryland.
"Map of Cumberland: published by John Beran, 1853. (Allegany County Historical Society, Cumberland, Md.).
McEvoy, Pauline. Research notes, files of Tri-County Council for Western Maryland, Inc., Cumberland, Md.
Thomas, James W. and T. J. C. William History of Allegany County, Maryland; 2 vols.
"View of Cumberland", Cincinnati, Ohio. P. A. Grosz, 1873 (Allegany County Historical Society, Cumberland, Md.).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	0			0			0		
NE	0			0			0		
SE	0			0			0		
SW	0			0			0		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 100.00

Acreage Justification:
The property measures 32.95 feet along Baltimore Street
by 59.93 feet along Liberty Street.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES			
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Ronald L. Andrews, Historic Sites Consultant	
ORGANIZATION Tri-County Council for Western Maryland, Inc.	DATE 5/29/74
STREET AND NUMBER: Suite 510, Algonquin Motor Inn	
CITY OR TOWN: Cumberland	STATE Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:
National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FORMCONTINUATION SHEET

Gillette Building

#7. DESCRIPTION (Continued)

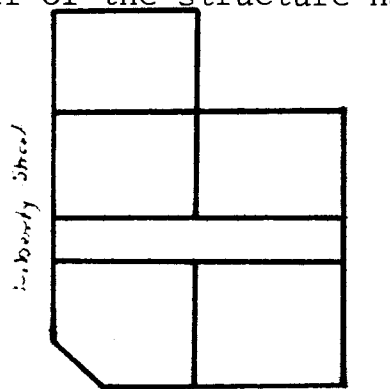
wall of the southerly section with the couter standing in front of it. The motif of the plain columns with ornate capitals is carried around the paneling only with flat pilasters. The room has a tin ceiling and early lighting fixtures. The floor covering and the counter stools are of recent vintage. The name "Curtis" is worked into the tile of the entrance walkway.

Entrance to the upper stories is gained through a doorway on the west side. The entranceway is below the second bay from the south side. This entrance also leads to one of the first floor shops. The present arrangement of the principal rooms of the upper levels consists of two rooms to the south of the stairhall and three to the north with two of these along North Liberty Street. The north room on the third floor is very small. (See drawing).

Stylistically, the balustrade of the steps leading to the second floor and much of the decorative detailing of the second floor are of the late Victorian period. The room in the southwest corner, containing the diagonal, has a mantelpiece consisting of two columns flanking both the opening and an oval mirror above the shelf. A large doorway with folding doors opens from this room into the room to the east (southeast corner).

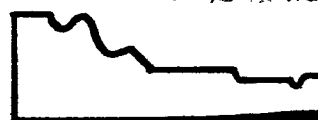
The balustrade and the decorative detailing of the third floor are simple in design and in character with the exterior of the building. The balustrade extends up the steps from the second floor and on to the top of the steps leading to the attic. The window trim of the second and third floor consists of mainly flat, beaded boards with decorative molding applied to the outer edges. The window trim on the second floor may be original. (See drawing).

The general condition of the structure is deplorable. Major repair of the structure has been neglected for years.



Floor plan, upper levels
NOT to scale

Window trim
NOT to scale



2nd floor, Liberty St side,
3rd window from North
Side

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET
NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

Gillette Building

#8. SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

on the growth and development of Cumberland after 1800.

Thomas reports that brick construction was common about the time of the fire.

The building was used for commercial and residential purposes for well over a century. A map of Cumberland that is dated 1853 lists a grocier, a tobaccoist, and a dry goods shop as occupying the building that stands on the northeast corner of Baltimore and Liberty Streets. On the 1873 View of Cumberland a sketch of the building is labeled as "Porter's Dental Rooms." Through out the 1870's several doctors, dentists, and lawyers as well as businesses are identified in the newspapers as being located in this building. The 1873 View shows that the building has Victorian shop fronts. About 1918 the Curtis Restaurant gained at 72 Baltimore Street and operated in the same location until May, 1974. This Restaurant had an "academic" interior dating from the World War I era.

In 1973, the property was purchased by the Cumberland Urban Renewal Agency from the estate of Mary C. Gillette. The building is scheduled for demolition in the near future. The last occupant of the building, the Curtis Restaurant, moved out in May, 1974.

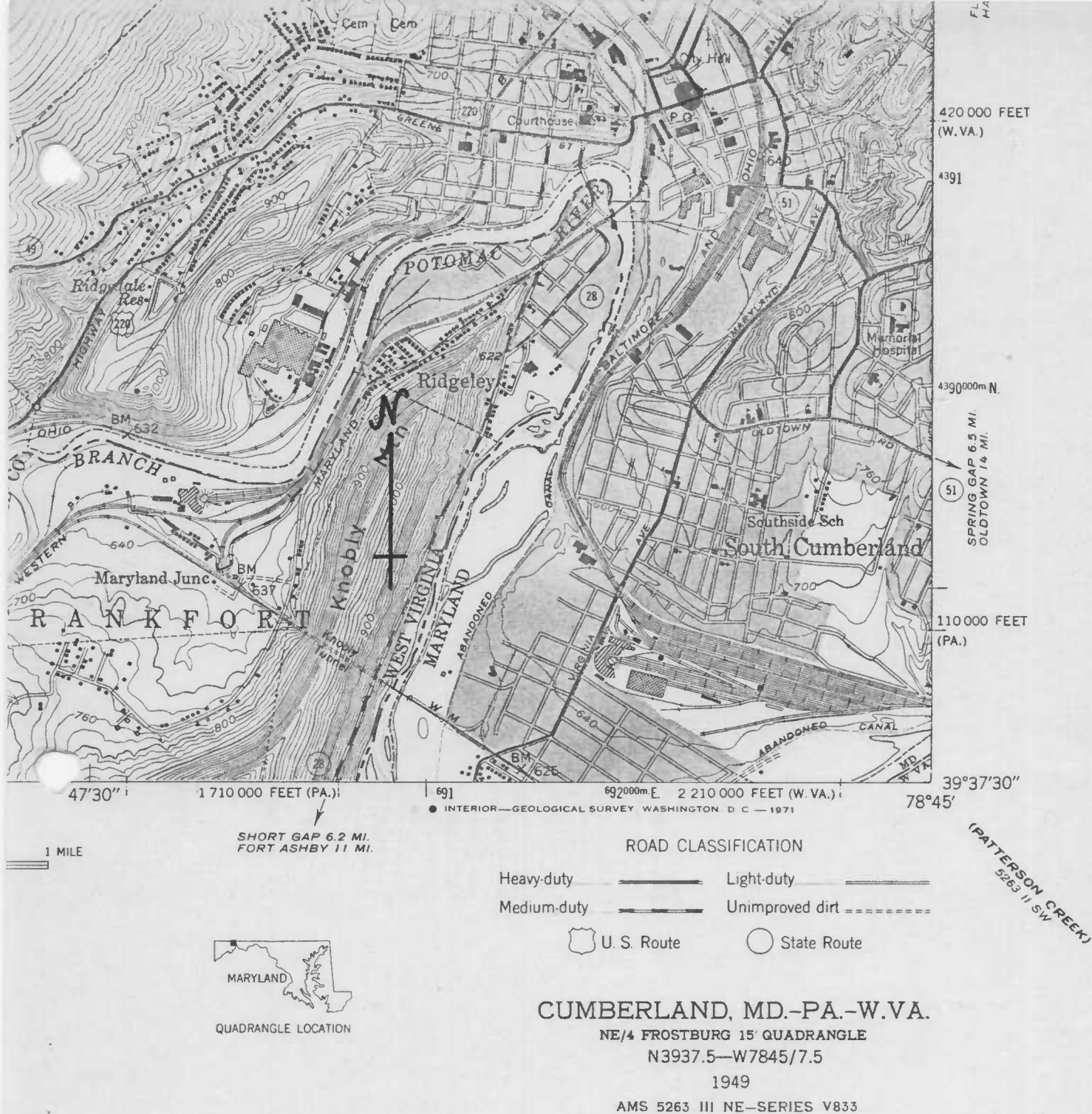
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

ADDENDUM SHEET

R. L. Andrews
31 July 1974

subject: Gillette Building
70-72 Baltimore Street and
1-5 North Liberty Street
Cumberland, Allegany County, Maryland

note: The Gillette Building was razed in July, 1974
and is to be replaced by a park.



Gillette Building
 70-72 Baltimore Street and
 1-5 North Liberty Street
 Cumberland
 Allegany County, Maryland



Gillette Building

20-22 Baltimore St. and

1-5 N. Liberty St.

Cumberland

Allegheny Co., Maryland

SW view

May, 1974

RONALD L. ANDREWS

AL-IV-011



Gillette Building
70-72 Baltimore St.
Cumberland
Allegheny Co., Md

East wall following
demolition, August 1974

RONALD L. ANDREWS



Gillette Building
70-72 Baltimore St
Cumberland
Allegany Co., Md

rubble following demolition
in August 1974

panelling from restaurant

RONALD L. ANDREWS



Gillette Building
Baltimore & Liberty Sts.
Cumberland
Allegheny Co., Md
1974
built c. 1830s-1840
razed 1974

AL-II-011

R. L. ANDREWS
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